Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 NSCE-00 CIEP-03 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 060936Z AUG 74 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5822 INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI AMCONGEN HONG KONG USLO PEKING CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 9373

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, TW, CH

SUBJ: ROC APPROACH ON POSSIBLE GOP-PRC RELATIONS

REF: MANILA 9211

1. GRC AMBASSADOR GAVE SMALL LUNCH AUGUST 6 FOR GRC MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO S.K. CHOW, WHO IS CONCLUDING HIS INCONSPICUOUS VISIT HERE AUGUST 7. PRESENT WERE ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY COLLANTES, FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY RAMOS, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S. LAGDAMEO, AND MYSELF. TALK WAS PURELY SOCIAL CHIT CHAT.

2. I STAYED AFTER LUNCH FOR LEISURELY DISCUSSION ALONE WITH CHOW AND CHINESE AMBASSADOR. THEY SEEMED FULLY AWARE OF TRIP TO PEKING PLANNED BY MRS. MARCOS AND ACCEPTED INEVITABILITY OF PHILIPPINE RECOGNITION OF PEKING. HOWEVER, CHOW CONTINUED TO EXHIBIT SAME INFLEXIBLE, TOUGH LINE ABOUT GRC INTENTIONS IF AND WHEN SUCH RECOGNITION ACTUALLY OCCURES. HE ISISTED, IN SUCH EVENT, THAT TAIPEI WOULD CUT CONFIDENTIAL

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OF "COMPLETELY, UNDERLINE COMPLETELY" ALL RELATIONS,

GOVERNMENTAL, COMMERCIAL, TOURISTIC, AND OTHERWISE, BETWEEN TAIWAN AND PHILIPPINES.

- 3. WHEN I ASKED CHOW IF HE HAD MADE STATEMENT THIS BLUNTLY TO PRESIDENT MARCOS WHEN HE CALLED ON HIM, HE DEMURRED QUICKLY AND EXPLAINED THAT HIS VISIT HERE WAS "GOOD WILL" TRIP, WHICH WOULD NOT RPT NOT PERMIT SUCH STIFF LANGUAGE. HE EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR HIM TO SAY THESE THINGS TO MARCOS BECAUSE THEY HAD ALREADY BEEN SAID TO RAMOS WHEN LATTER VISITED TAIPEI.
- 4. WE THEN DISCUSSED PRESSURES ON MARCOS AND CAUTIOUS GAME HE WAS PLAYING VIS-A-VIS BOTH PEKING AND MOSCOW. CHOW SAID HE HAD CONCLUDED, ON BASIS HIS DISCUSSIONS HERE, THAT MARCOS PERSONALLY WAS PREPARED TO MOVE VERY SLOWLY. HE WORRIED, HOWEVER, THAT PEKING MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT MRS. MARCOS TOWARDS MORE RAPID STEPS, ESPECIALLY IF SHE COULD BE TEMPTED BY PROSPECT OF PRIVATE GAIN THROUGH COMMERCE.
- 5. I EXPRESSED CONCERN AT RIGIDITY OF TAIPEI POSITION, AS STIPULATED BY CHOW. I SAID A TOTAL RUPTURE BETWEEN TAIPEI AND MANILA WOULD ONLY BENEFIT PEKING, AND WOULD BE SOMETHING THE U.S. WOULD DEEPLY DEPLORE. I ALSO EXPLAINED THAT, IN OUR EXPERIENCE, FILIPINOS, WHEN EXPOSED TO WHAT THEY CONSIDERED UNREASONABLE EXTERNAL PRESSURE, WERE LIKELY TO REACT IN A RATHER "MACHO" FASHION, WITHOUT REGARD TO THE CONSEQUENCES. THEREFORE, I URGED CHOW TO GIVE MORE THOUGHT TO MAKING THE GRC POSITION MORE SUPPLE.
- 6. CHOW MADE SYMPATHETIC NOISES, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, TAIPEI INTENDS TO TOUGH IT OUT. HE SAID HE WOULD KEEP CLOSE CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR UNGER AND WOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN DIRECT LIAISON WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS.
 SULLIVAN

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